

## Message Text

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47 41

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SSO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 INRE-00

ARAE-00 NSCE-00 MC-02 SP-02 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00

L-03 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00 /050 W

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FM AMEMBASSY LIMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1787

C O N F I D E N T I A L L I M A 8 3 1 4

FOR UNDER SECRETARY MAW AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY SHLAUDEMAN  
FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE U.S. OFFER OF AIRCRAFT TO GOP: POGGI

WASHINGTON VISIT TOMORROW

REF: SECDEF 7052

1. UPON MY RETURN TO LIMA I DISCUSSED THE ALLEGED PERUVIAN  
BUY OF SOVIET AIRCRAFT WITH INTERESTED MISSION MEMBERS. ALTHOUGH  
THERE REMAINS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION AMONG THEM OVER WHETHER  
THE PERUVIANS HAVE ALREADY PURCHASED THE SU-22, WE ALL AGREE  
THAT A FINAL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIETS IS LIKELY, AND THAT  
GOP "REQUEST FOR BIDS" IS LARGELY PRO FORMA.

2. AS INDICATED IN SEPTTEL AND PREVIOUS REPORTING ON THIS  
SUBJECT, THERE IS NO DOUBT ABOUT THE GOP INTENTION TO MAKE A  
MAJOR AIRCRAFT PURCHASE. ALTHOUGH A SU-22 PURCHASE WOULD RE-  
PRESENT NEW OFFENSIVE CAPABILITIES, THE PERUVIAN CONTENTION THAT  
IT NEEDS TO REPLACE OBSOLETE AIRCRAFT IS NOT WITHOUT MERIT.  
THE EMBASSY UNDERSTANDS THAT ONLY ONE OF THE PAF HAWKER HUNTERS  
AND TWO F-86S ARE OPERABLE. HAWKER HUNTERS AND F-86S WILL BE  
REPLACED NOT ONLY TO IMPROVE AIR FORCE CAPABILITY BUT ALSO TO  
PROVIDE PILOTS WITH SAFER AIRCRAFT.

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3. PERHAPS AS A SMOKE SCREEN FOR A SOVIET PURCHASE (THE PUBLIC REVELATION OF GOP NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE USSR WAS INOPPORTUNE FOR THE GOP BOTH FOR POLITICAL AND FOR ECONOMIC REASONS ASSOCIATED WITH THE INTERNATIONAL BANK LOANS) OR PERHAPS BECAUSE THE GOP HAD SECOND THOUGHTS ABOUT THE POLITICAL COST OF A SOVIET PURCHASE, FONMIN DE LA PUENTE ANNOUNCED AUGUST 22 THAT PERU HAD "INVITED THE GOVERNMENTS OF FRANCE, GREAT BRITAIN, SOVIET UNION AND THE U.S. TO SUBMIT PROPOSALS...". SUBSEQUENTLY AIR MINISTER POGGI TRAVELED TO GREAT BRITAIN AND FRANCE WHERE, WE UNDERSTAND, HE EXHIBITED PERFUNCTORY INTEREST IN POSSIBLE REPLACEMENT AIRCRAFT. THE LIMA PRESS HAS NOW REPORTED THAT POGGI IS TO RETURN FROM EUROPE VIA THE U.S. HIS U.S. VISIT PRESUMABLY WOULD BE TO DETERMINE THE AVAILABILITY OF U.S. AIRCRAFT. ALTHOUGH GOP HAD NOT NOTIFIED EMBASSY OR MAAG, WE HAVE CONFIRMED FROM GOP THAT POGGI WILL ARRIVE IN WASHINGTON TOMORROW SEPTEMBER 15 FOR ONE DAY VISIT.

4. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPORTANT FOR POLITICAL REASONS THAT WE NOT ENABLE THE GOP TO CLAIM THAT IT WAS FORCED TO BUY SOVIET -AS IT DID IN THE CASE OF THE T-55 TANKS) BECAUSE THE U.S. WOULD NOT SELL. AS I STATED IN WASHINGTON, WE WOULD BE WRONG TO USE A PATERNALISTIC APPROACH WITH THE GOP. WE MUST OFFER TO SELL SOME AIRCRAFT AND CLEARLY EXPLAIN WHY OTHER U.S. AIRCRAFT ARE NOT AVAILABLE.

5. UNDER SECRETARY MAW'S DISCUSSIONS WITH GOP DURING HIS VISIT TO LIMA WILL BE A TIMELY TEST OF PERUVIAN INTENTIONS (SECDEF 7052). AIR MINISTER POGGI'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON TOMORROW (HE COULD BE CONTACTED THROUGH GOP MILITARY ATTACHE IN WASHINGTON, GENERAL DAVILA) MAY PROVIDE AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO DEMONSTRATE U.S. INTEREST IN HELPING PERU MEET ITS LEGITIMATE DEFENSE NEEDS.

6. A U.S. OFFER MAY BE FOR THE RECORD ONLY SINCE WE CANNOT COMPETE IN EITHER SOPHISTICATION OF AIRCRAFT OR FINANCIAL TERMS WITH THE POLITICALLY-PRICED SOVIET PROPOSAL. HOWEVER, A U.S. INITIATIVE WITH POGGI COULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR HIM TO CLAIM THAT HIS VIIT TO WASHINGTON WAS MET WITH INDIFFERENCE. COUPLED WITH OUR CONVERSATIONS HERE, IT SHOULD HELP US IN ANY FUTURE DIALOGUE WITH THE PERUVIANS ON MEASURES TO REDUCE CONFIDENTIAL

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TENSIONS WITH CHILE AND LIMIT SOVIET INFLUENCE SHOULD THE SU-22 PURCHASE ULTIMATELY BE CONSUMMATED.  
DEAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
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**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** GOVERNMENT PROCUREMENT, AIRCRAFT, MILITARY CAPABILITIES  
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**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** powellba  
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**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** powellba  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 21 JUL 2004  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <21 JUL 2004 by saccheem>; APPROVED <28 OCT 2004 by powellba>  
**Review Markings:**

Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
04 MAY 2006

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** POSSIBLE U.S. OFFER OF AIRCRAFT TO GOP: POGGI WASHINGTON VISIT TOMORROW  
**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, PINT, PE, UR, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006